



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

March 23, 2007

### **S. 39**

#### **Ocean and Coastal Exploration and NOAA Act (OCEAN Act)**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
on February 13, 2007*

### **SUMMARY**

S. 39 would direct the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to establish and coordinate national programs for ocean exploration, undersea research, and ocean and coastal mapping. In carrying out those programs, NOAA would be authorized to coordinate scientific voyages with other federal agencies or institutions and to conduct public education and outreach programs. The bill also would establish an interagency committee on ocean and coastal mapping. For those activities, the bill would authorize appropriations totaling about \$700 million over the 2008-2012 period and nearly \$1.5 billion over the 2008-2017 period.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 39 would cost about \$40 million in fiscal year 2008 and \$540 million over the 2008-2012 period. We estimate that more than \$900 million would be spent after 2012, including nearly \$760 million authorized to be appropriated between 2012 and 2017. Enacting S. 39 would have no impact on revenues or direct spending.

S. 39 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 39 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012

#### CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION

Authorization Level <sup>a</sup>	119	130	140	153	165
Estimated Outlays	40	80	130	140	150

- a. NOAA's National Ocean Service received appropriations of around \$600 million in 2007, including funding for some activities that are similar to the exploration, research, and mapping programs that would be authorized by this bill. In addition to the amounts shown in the table, S. 39 also would authorize funding over the 2013-2017 period. In total, the bill would authorize appropriations of nearly \$1.5 billion over the 2008-2017 (10-year) period.

## BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the entire amounts authorized by the bill will be appropriated for each fiscal year. Outlays have been estimated on the basis of historical spending patterns for NOAA programs.

The authorization levels in the table are as specified in the bill for fiscal years 2008 through 2012, including:

- Between \$31 million and \$45 million a year for ocean exploration,
- Between \$18 million and \$25 million a year for undersea research and technology programs, including between \$5 million and \$7 million annually for a national technology institute,
- Between \$20 million and \$45 million a year for coastal and ocean mapping, and
- \$10 million a year for each of five federal departments or agencies (the Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, Department of the Interior, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Environmental Protection Agency) for participating in an interagency committee on ocean and coastal mapping.

S. 39 also would authorize appropriations for ocean exploration and research and technology programs for each of fiscal years 2012 through 2017. The bill would authorize appropriations for coastal and ocean mapping, including the interagency committee, through 2015.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

S. 39 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

### **ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:**

Federal Costs: Deborah Reis

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Lisa Ramirez-Branum

Impact on the Private Sector: Craig Cammarata

### **ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:**

Peter H. Fontaine

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis